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concl.  
lowered. The lowering in rate may not have an effect on the enhancement of the tissue sample toward immunohistochemical staining, but may have an effect on the time period required for such enhancement to occur.

In the Claims, please amend the Claims as follows:

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1. (Once Amended) A liquid composition for preparing a tissue for immunohistochemical staining, wherein the tissue is substantially embedded in a paraffin tissue embedding medium, consisting essentially of:

an emulsifier wherein the emulsifier is adapted to substantially remove the paraffin embedding medium from the tissue during use;

a tissue activating agent, wherein the tissue activating agent is adapted, when contacted with the tissue during use, to improve immunohistochemical staining of the tissue in comparison to tissue that has not been contacted with the tissue activating agent; and,

water in a sufficient quantity to substantially hydrate the tissue;

wherein, when the composition is contacted with tissue during use, the composition is capable of substantially removing the paraffin embedding medium from the tissue, to improve immunohistochemical staining of the tissue in comparison to tissue that has not been contacted with the composition, and to substantially hydrate the tissue.

2. (Once Amended) A composition for enhancing antigenicity of a fixed, paraffin embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising:

a buffered solution of about .01 moles of trisodium citrate dihydrate, and about 1000 milliliters of water;

about 18.5 milliliters of SIMPLE GREEN®, the SIMPLE GREEN® comprising about 5.8%

Q12  
ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, about 3.75% nonylphenol ethoxylate and about 1.5% tetrapotassium pyrophosphate; and

an amount of reagent sufficient to adjust pH to between about 6.0 and about 5.96.

3.(Once Amended)An aqueous composition for enhancing antigenicity of a fixed, paraffin embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising:

a surfactant in a volume up to about 25%;

citric acid and alkaline citrate salts in a weight of up to 10%; and

sufficient acid to adjust pH to acidity.

4.(Once Amended) A method for using the composition of Claim 2, for preparing for immunohistochemical staining a fixed, paraffin embedded, dehydrated, slide mounted tissue for receipt of a immunohistochemical stain thereon, including the steps of:

contacting the slide with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;

removing the slide from the composition; and

washing the slide in an appropriate buffer solution to remove any remaining composition on the slide.

5. (Once Amended)A method for using the composition of Claim 3 including the steps of:

contacting the slide with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;

removing the slide from the composition; and

washing the slide in an appropriate buffer solution to remove any remaining composition on the slide.